



# Press Release

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For Information Contact:

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Terry Mathews  
1-800-256-4485

## Louisiana Rice Yield Exceeding Early Expectation

“As Rice harvest has progressed, farmers have seen better yields than they expected,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “All indications continue to point to a record rice yield. Meanwhile, rainfall has kept soybean and cotton farmers out of their fields, slowing the harvest down.”

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 30.1 million cwt, up two percent from the previous month and up 11 percent from 2008. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 470,000 acres. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,400 pounds, up 100 pounds from previous month and up 570 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 221 million cwt, up one percent from the September forecast and up eight percent from last year.

**Soybean** production is expected to total 35.9 million bushels in Louisiana, up three percent from the September estimate and up 14 percent from 2008. Acreage planted to soybeans was revised to 1,020,000 acres and harvested acreage to 970,000, both down 30,000 acres from the June estimate. Yield is forecast at 37 bushels per acre, up two bushels from the previous month and up four bushels from last year. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at a record high 3.3 billion bushels, up slightly from the September forecast and up 10 percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 380,000 bales, down six percent from the September estimate but up 35 percent from last year. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest is forecast at 225,000 acres, down 9,000 acres from a year ago. The expected yield per acre, at 811 pounds, is down 53 pounds from the September forecast but up 235 pounds from 2008. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 12.6 million bales, down three percent from last month but up two percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 81.8 million bushels, down 10 percent from the previous month’s estimate but up 11 percent from last year. Estimated production is down from last month as corn harvested acreage was revised to 620,000 acres, down 60,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. Yield per acre, at 132 bushels, is down two bushels from last month and down 12 bushels from last year’s yield. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 13 billion bushels, up slightly from last month and eight percent higher than 2008.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 11.2 million net tons, up four percent from the previous month but down two percent from last year. Harvested acreage for sugar and seed is forecast at 400,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 28 net tons per acre, up one net ton from the September estimate but down .3 net ton from last year. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2009 is forecast at 28.5 million net tons, up two percent from the September forecast and up three percent from 2008.

**Sorghum** production is estimated at 5.2 million bushels in the state, down 28 percent from the September estimate and down 46 percent from 2008. Acreage expected for harvest was revised to 67,000 acres, down 43,000 acres from last year. If realized, harvested acreage will be the lowest since 1980 when the state harvested 14,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 77 bushels per acre, up two bushels from last month but down 10 bushels from a year ago. U.S. production of **sorghum** is forecast at 364 million bushels, down seven percent from last month and down 23 percent from last year.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 1.2 million tons, down eight percent from the August estimate but up nine percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 450,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from 2008. Yield, at 2.6 tons per acre, is expected to be up 0.1 ton from last year. U.S. **all hay** production is forecast at 153 million tons, up five percent from 2008.

Louisiana’s **pecan** production is forecast at 8 million pounds, compared to 5 million pounds last year. U.S. **all pecan** production is forecast at 309 million pounds, up 59 percent from 2008.